



City Receives \$1.6 Million in Stimulus Funds for Energy Projects

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The City of Dayton will further its efforts to foster a green and sustainable community with help from \$1.6 million provided by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. An expanded curbside recycling program, facility upgrades, an organization-wide carbon footprint and public education campaigns are among the energy-saving initiatives to be funded by the grant.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) was awarded to the City of Dayton on November 20 and supports Dayton's goals of conservation, reducing energy costs, sustainable operations and promoting sustainability throughout the community. The City Commission voted to accept the grant at its December 30 meeting.

The City of Dayton will utilize the grant funds in five areas:

Curbside Recycling: The City's Department of Public Works will expand and promote Dayton's curbside recycling program, with a goal of increasing participation from 25 percent to 35 percent of the city's 67,000 residential customers. EECBG funding will be used to purchase 8,000 96-gallon roll-out recycling containers, which are larger and more portable than the recycling program's current containers, and to develop and implement communications campaigns to promote their use. The containers will be imbedded with RFID tags to allow for tracking of program success and quantities of recycled materials processed. Expanded use of curbside recycling will result in less solid waste in landfills and less litter in the community. The EECBG-funded containers will be supplemented by an additional 2,000 containers funded by a grant from the Montgomery County Solid Waste District. The City will deliver the new containers to two pilot areas where recycling participation efforts will be measured and reported.

Cooling Units: Four cooling units will be purchased and installed at the City of Dayton's Information Technology Division data center at 130 W. Second St. The four units will replace aging, inefficient cooling units that are approaching the end of their useful life. The data center provides essential information technology services for all City functions, including Police and Fire, and must be temperature-maintained at less than 78 degrees F at all times. The new coolers will save energy and will significantly reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions.

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Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy: The City of Dayton will establish a local energy program to implement a comprehensive energy and sustainability strategy, using EECBG funds. The office will oversee completion of a carbon inventory (a “carbon footprint”) for City operations, to be used as a baseline for planning and implementing energy programs and reduction of carbon emissions; develop an energy management system; and coordinate public education campaigns to encourage community-wide energy conservation and sustainable practices. A new, full-time position (Environmental Manager) will manage the programs and will be funded by the EECBG grant for one year.

Energy-Efficient Street Maintenance Building: A structure now under construction at the intersection of East Monument Avenue and Keowee Street will replace five Division of Street Maintenance facilities and will consolidate street maintenance operations into one building, including offices, fleet maintenance, welding shop, storage and vehicle parking. EECBG funds will be used to install a high-efficiency HVAC system in accordance with LEED standards. In addition to significantly improved energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions, the new building and HVAC system will allow trucks (previously parked outdoors) to warm up faster, with significant cumulative fuel savings and greenhouse gas reductions.

Streetlight Retrofit Project: EECBG funds will be used to replace 56 sidewalk light fixtures with LED luminaries along Main Street in the Central Business District. Existing poles and wiring will be re-used. The LED lights will be focused downward, where light is needed in pedestrian areas, eliminating energy use on light sent skyward. The new lights will be compatible with “dark sky” standards and with the Greater Downtown Dayton Plan’s goal of using green technologies in redevelopment initiatives.

The City of Dayton’s new energy initiatives follow the Dayton City Commission’s adoption in 2007 of a Sustainable Practices Policy, which called for City operations to move toward environmental sustainability when possible, and Mayor Rhine McLin’s endorsement of the 2005 U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

“The City of Dayton is taking major steps to improve energy efficiency and operate sustainably organization-wide through a demonstrated commitment to curbside recycling, reducing carbon output and many other means,” Mayor McLin said. “Dayton is utilizing federal economic stimulus funds wisely and in ways that will benefit the community for years to come.”

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